

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE FAIR  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

**November 2011**

# **INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

## **2011**

**Senator David Long**

**Chairperson**

**Fort Wayne**

**Speaker Brian Bosma**

**Vice-Chairperson**

**Indianapolis**

**Senator Vi Simpson**

**Bloomington**

**Representative B. Patrick Bauer**

**South Bend**

**Senator Brandt Hershman**

**Buck Creek**

**Representative Kathy Richardson**

**Noblesville**

**Senator Connie Lawson**

**Danville**

**Representative William Friend**

**Macy**

**Senator Brent Steele**

**Bedford**

**Representative Eric Turner**

**Cicero**

**Senator James Merritt**

**Indianapolis**

**Representative Timothy Brown**

**Crawfordsville**

**Senator James Arnold**

**LaPorte**

**Representative Linda Lawson**

**Hammond**

**Senator Timothy Lanane**

**Anderson**

**Representative Dale Grubb**

**Covington**

**John M. Ross**  
**Executive Director**  
**Legislative Services Agency**

# **State Fair Advisory Committee**

## **Membership Roster**

### **Representatives**

**Robert Cherry, Chair  
Greenfield**

**Kreg Battles  
Vincennes**

**David Niezgodski  
South Bend**

**Phyllis Pond  
New Haven**

### **Senators**

**Jean Breaux  
Indianapolis**

**James Merritt  
Indianapolis**

**Scott Schneider  
Indianapolis**

**Richard Young  
Milltown**

## **Legislative Services Agency Staff**

**Jessica Harmon, Fiscal Analyst  
Steven Wenning, Attorney**

**November 2011**

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

## INFORMATION REPORT

### **State Fair Advisory Committee**

#### **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

IC 15-13-6-4 directs the State Fair Advisory Committee to

- (1) Serve as a liaison between the
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the Barn;
  - (C) board; and
  - (D) General Assembly.
- (2) Review policies affecting the activities of the
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) Barn;
  - (C) State Fair;
  - (D) facilities at the Fairgrounds; and
  - (E) property owned by the commission.
- (3) Provide long-range guidance for the
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the Barn; and
  - (C) board.
- (4) Review annually the
  - (A) commission's;
  - (B) board of trustees of the Barn's; and
  - (C) board's;

budgets and other accounts and report financial conditions to the Legislative Council.
- (5) Further advise the Budget Committee regarding appropriations and other financial matters concerning the:
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) board of trustees of the Barn; and
  - (C) board.
- (6) Propose, review, and make recommendations concerning legislation affecting the
  - (A) commission;
  - (B) Barn; and
  - (C) board.

The Legislative Council did not assign any topics of study to the Committee in 2011.

#### **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met once during the 2011 interim session on October 18, 2011, at the Board Room of the Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

### **III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

**Attendance of the 2011 State Fair.** Cynthia Hoye, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission, provided information on attendance for the 2011 Indiana State Fair, with comparisons to the previous years of 2007 through 2010.

**Financials of the 2011 State Fair.** Director Hoye provided a summary of the revenue and expenditures of the 2011 Indiana State Fair.

**State Fair Tragedy.** Director Hoye provided a 2011 financial forecast that presented a summary of the estimated costs for the collapse incident that occurred on August 13, 2011. The estimated loss due to the tragedy is about \$975,000, which includes \$770,000 for contracting services with the firms Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. and Witt Associates, and \$140,000 for legal support.

Witt Associates' investigation is focusing on the State Fair's preparedness and response. Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.'s work is focusing on the structural aspects of the investigation. Reports on the investigations being conducted by Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. and Witt Associates are expected to be available around April 2012.

Director Hoye provided more information on the State Fair Relief Fund and the protocol for submitting claims. Ms. Hoye explained that the State Fair Relief Fund was established to accept donations to provide assistance to claimants, families, and survivors of the accident. The fund will be closed to new donations on October 31, 2012. The deadline for claims to be submitted is November 14, 2011. This fund is separate from the tort claims that have been filed.

**Creation of the State Fair Commission 501(c)(3) Foundation through SEA 478 (2011).** Sen. Merritt, Vice-Chair of the State Fair Advisory Committee, explained that the foundation allowed to be established through SEA 478 (2011) will be able to accept donations to assist in funding for education activities and capital projects.

Mr. Pat Berger, Senior Director of Administration of the Indiana State Fair Commission, reported that the foundation has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

**State Fair Commission's Economic Impact Study and Strategic Plan.** Ms. Margaret C. Davidson, Senior Director and Event Producer of the Indiana State Fair Commission, discussed the economic impact study that is being conducted with the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. The study focuses on the economic impact of the Pepsi Coliseum, the State Fair, and the Fairgrounds.

The State Fair Commission also provided their strategic plan for 2011-2013.

Meeting minutes for the Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.